

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/624,326

Applicant(s)

TOONG ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Apu M. Mofiz

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/14/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5-16,28-36 and 44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/22/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date hereto.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

Apu Mofiz
Apu Mofiz
Primary Examiner
TC 2100

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Authorization for Examiner's Amendment was given by Howard Skaist in a telephone interview on 09-11-06.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - 1.(currently amended) A method of searching a database of data elements, the method comprising: generating a search query to identify a first set of one or more data elements in the database, based on the first set, identifying a second set of one or more data elements in the database, where the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set, and generating data based on the data elements of the first and second sets and the relationships therebetween; wherein generating a search query includes: receiving search data from the user, based on the search data; generating the search query using a grid having first and second axes based on the one or more keywords; and generating a key word grid using a set building system.
 2. (canceled)
 3. (amended) The method of claim 2~~1~~, wherein generating a search query includes: determining one or more keywords based on the search data, and generating the search query including the one or more keywords.
 4. (canceled)
 5. (amended) The method of claim 4~~1~~, further comprising: coalescing the first set of data elements to include unique data elements.
 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set based on time.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set based on one or more references.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the references are based on the content of one or more of the data elements of the first set and the data elements of the second set.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the references include one or more of citations and HTML links.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a second set of one or more data elements includes: determining whether one or more of the one or more data elements of the first set include one or more references to one or more other data elements, and identifying a second set of one or more data elements based on the references.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a second set of data elements includes: determining whether one or more data elements in the database include one or more references to the data elements of the first set, and identifying a second set of one or more data elements based on the references.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing the generated data to one or more of a user and a display.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: graphically displaying the data elements of the first and second sets and the relationships therebetween.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a data element, and based on the selection, graphically displaying the contents of the data element.

15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the data elements are represented by geometric shapes and wherein the relationships are represented by lines between geometric shapes.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising: determining locations at which to display the geometric shapes and the lines to reduce overlaps between geometric shapes and crossings between lines.

17-27 (canceled)

28. (original) A processor program for searching a database of data elements, the

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processor program being stored on a processor readable medium and including instructions operable to cause a processor to: generate a search query to identify a first set of one or more data elements in the database, based on the first set, identify a second set of one or more data elements in the database, where the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set, and generate data based on the data elements of the first and second sets and the relationships therebetween;

wherein said instructions being further operable so that to generate a search query further includes: to receive search data from the user, based on the search data, to generate the search query; to generate the search query using a grid having first and second axes based on the one or more keywords; and to generate a key word grid using a set building system.

29. (original) The processor program of claim 28, wherein the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set based on time.

30. (original) The processor program of claim 28, wherein the data elements of the second set are related to one or more of the data elements of the first set based on one or more references.

31. (original) The processor program of claim 30, wherein the references are based on the content of one or more of the data elements of the first set and the data elements of the second set.

32. (original) The processor program of claim 30, wherein the references include one or more of citations and HTML links.

33. (original) The processor program of claim 28, further comprising instructions to: provide the generated data to one or more of a user and a display.

34. (original) The processor program of claim 28, further comprising instructions to: graphically display the data elements of the first and second sets and the relationships therebetween.

35. (original) The processor program of claim 34, wherein the data elements are represented by geometric shapes and wherein the relationships are represented by lines between geometric shapes.

36. (original) The processor program of claim 35, further comprising instructions to: determine locations at which to display the geometric shapes and the lines to reduce overlaps between geometric shapes and crossings between lines.

37-41 (canceled)

42. (canceled).

43. (canceled)

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said generating a search query comprises intelligent query generating using a data processing system.

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled).

47. (canceled)

Points of Contact

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (571) 272-4080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached at (571) 272-4146. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.


Apu M. Mofiz
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

September 12, 2006